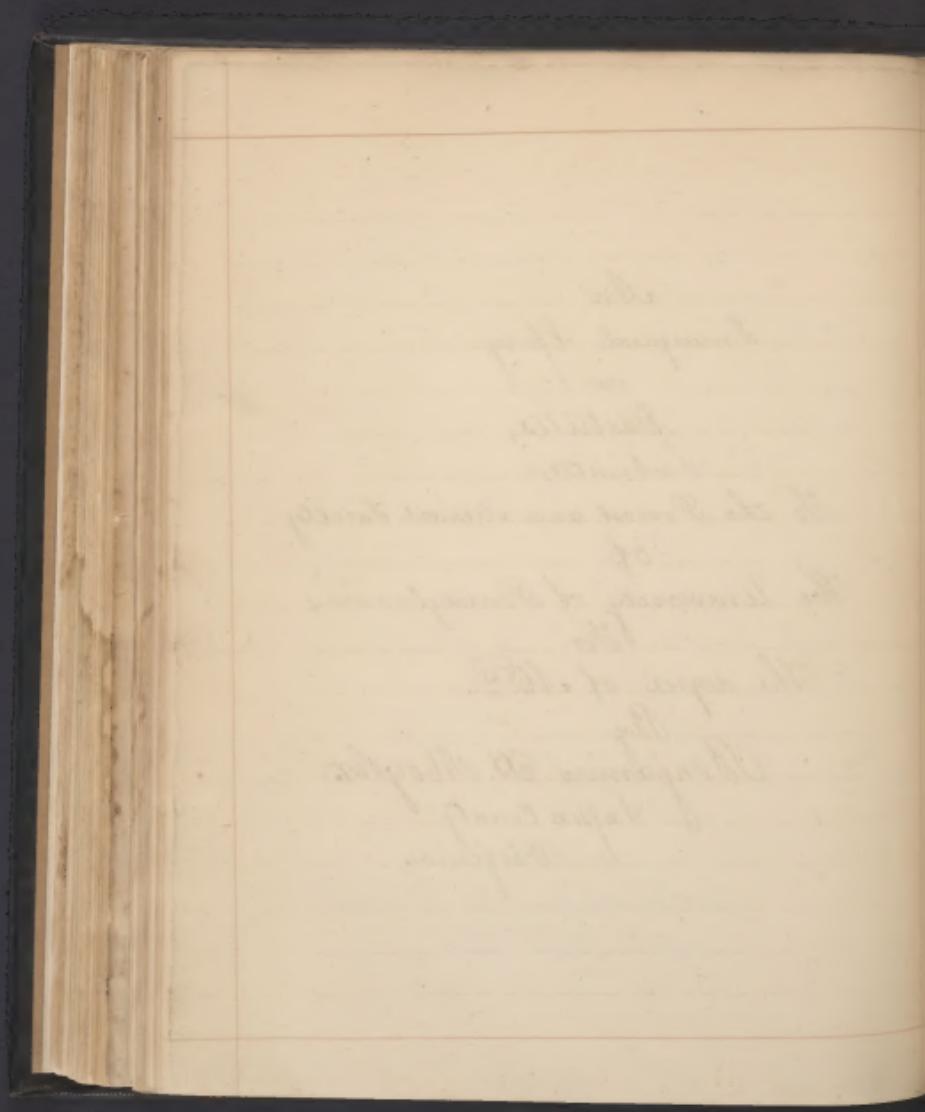


An  
Inaugural Essay  
on  
Gastritis,  
Submitted  
To the Provost and Medical Faculty  
of  
The University of Pennsylvania;  
For  
The degree of M.D.

By  
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## Gastritis.

Gastritis is by most nosologists divided into two species; viz. Phlegmonic and Erythematous; according as it attacks the nervous or peritoneal coats of the stomach, or the villous coat and cellular texture immediately subjacent to it. -

Cullen believes that the first of these may be seated in the nervous coat of the stomach, or in the peritoneum investing it, and the second species he supposes is always seated in the villous coat and cellular texture lying under it; - But this perhaps cannot be a cause of much difference: -

Gastritis, may arise from all the ordinary causes of inflammation, such as cold, stimulating or acrid matters swallowed, by external contusion or violence, repellent eruptions, retrocedent gout, frequently by very cold drink taken into the stomach when the body is very warm.

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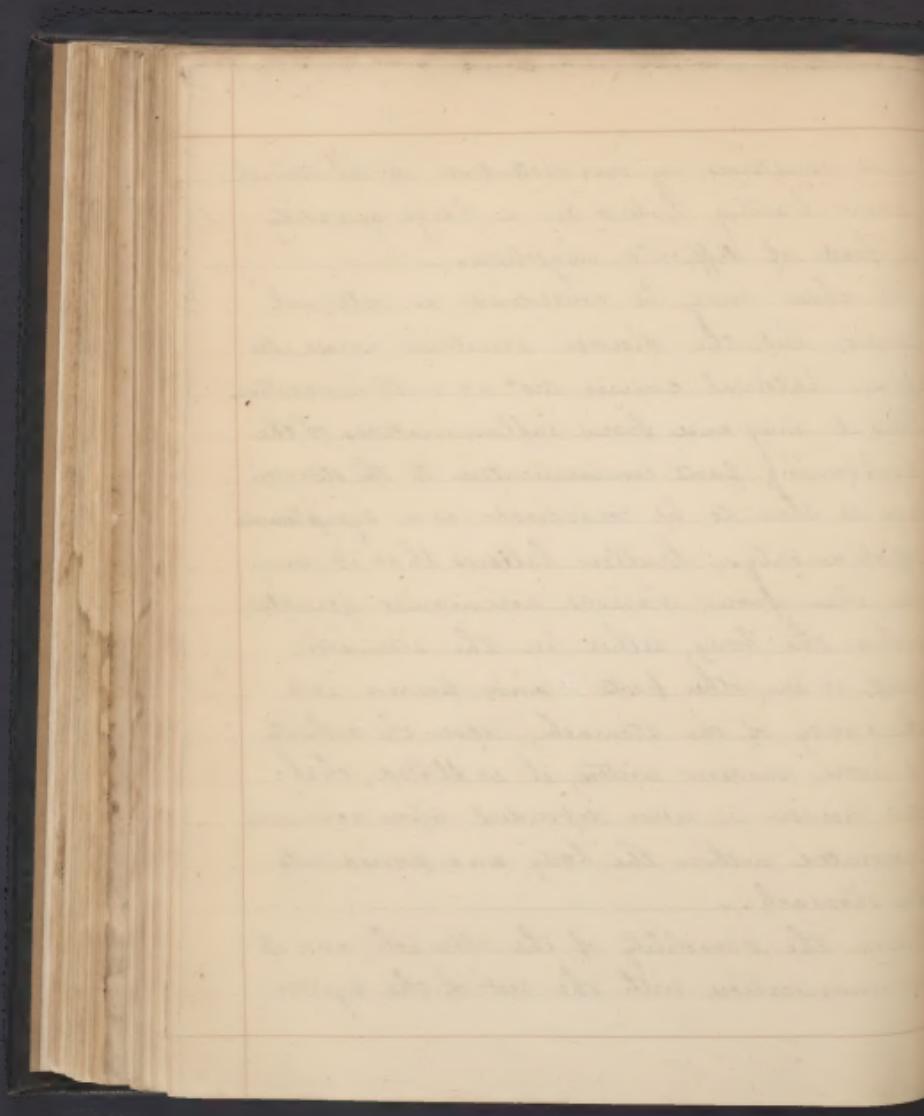
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and sometimes by over distention of the stomach from having taken in a large quantity of food of difficult digestion. -

All these may be considered as external causes; but the disease sometimes arises also from internal causes not so well understood. Thus it may arise from inflammations of the neighbouring parts communicated to the stomach, and is then to be considered as a symptomatic affection only. - Cullers believes that it may also arise from various acrimonies generated within the body, either in the stomach itself, or in other parts and poured into the cavity of the stomach; Upon the authority of more modern writers, it is stated, that this disease is never dependent upon acrimonies generated within the body and poured into the stomach. -

From the sensibility of the stomach, and its communication with the rest of the system,



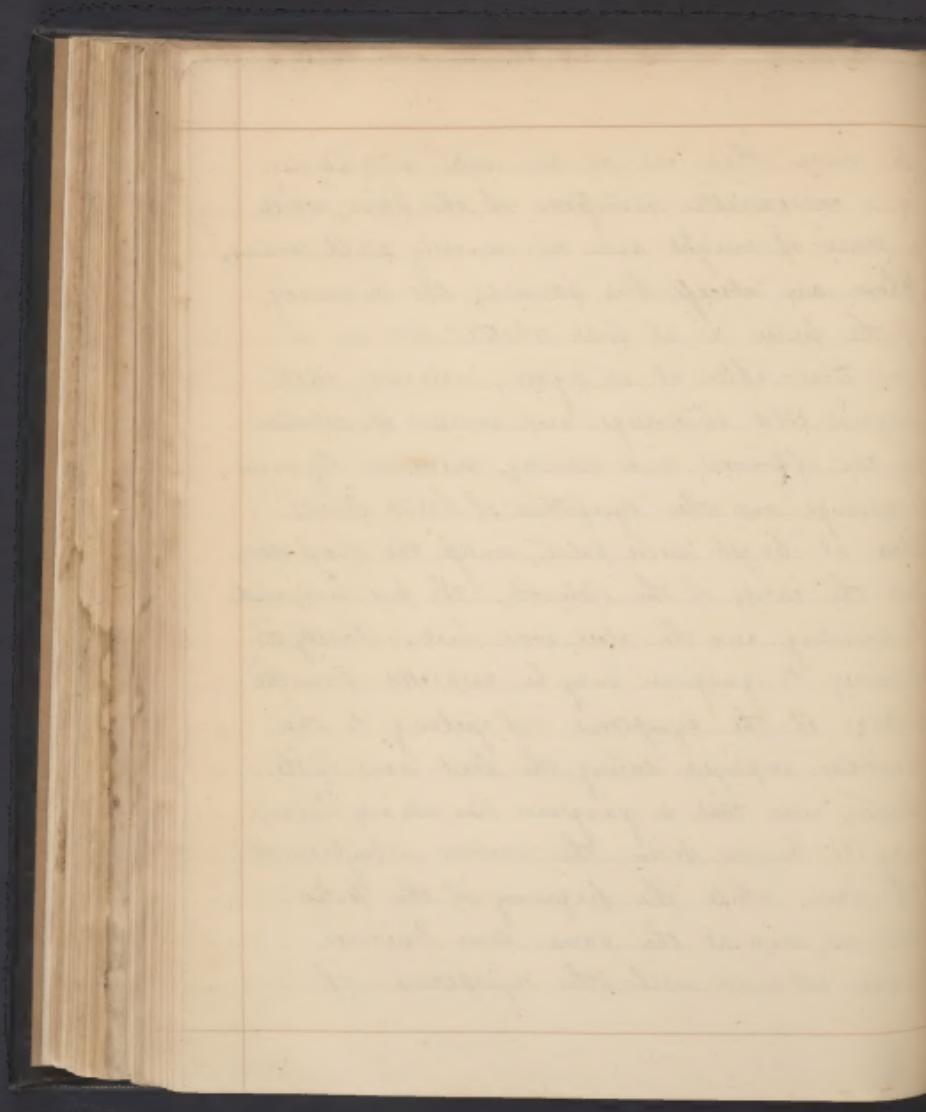
it will be evident that the inflammation  
of this organ, by whatever cause produced may  
be attended with fatal consequences; particularly  
by the great debility which such an  
inflammation suddenly produces, it may  
nearly prove fatal, without running the  
ordinary course of inflammations; -

Should it last sufficiently long to follow the  
common course of other inflammations, it may  
terminate by resolution, gangrene, or suppuration.  
The tendency of this disease to admit of  
resolution may be known by its having been  
produced from no violent cause, by the moderate  
state of the symptoms, and by a gradual  
improvement of these symptoms; especially in  
consequence of remedies employed in the  
course of the first or second week of the  
disease; - Again, a tendency of the disease  
to suppuration may be known, by the  
symptoms continuing in a moderate degree,

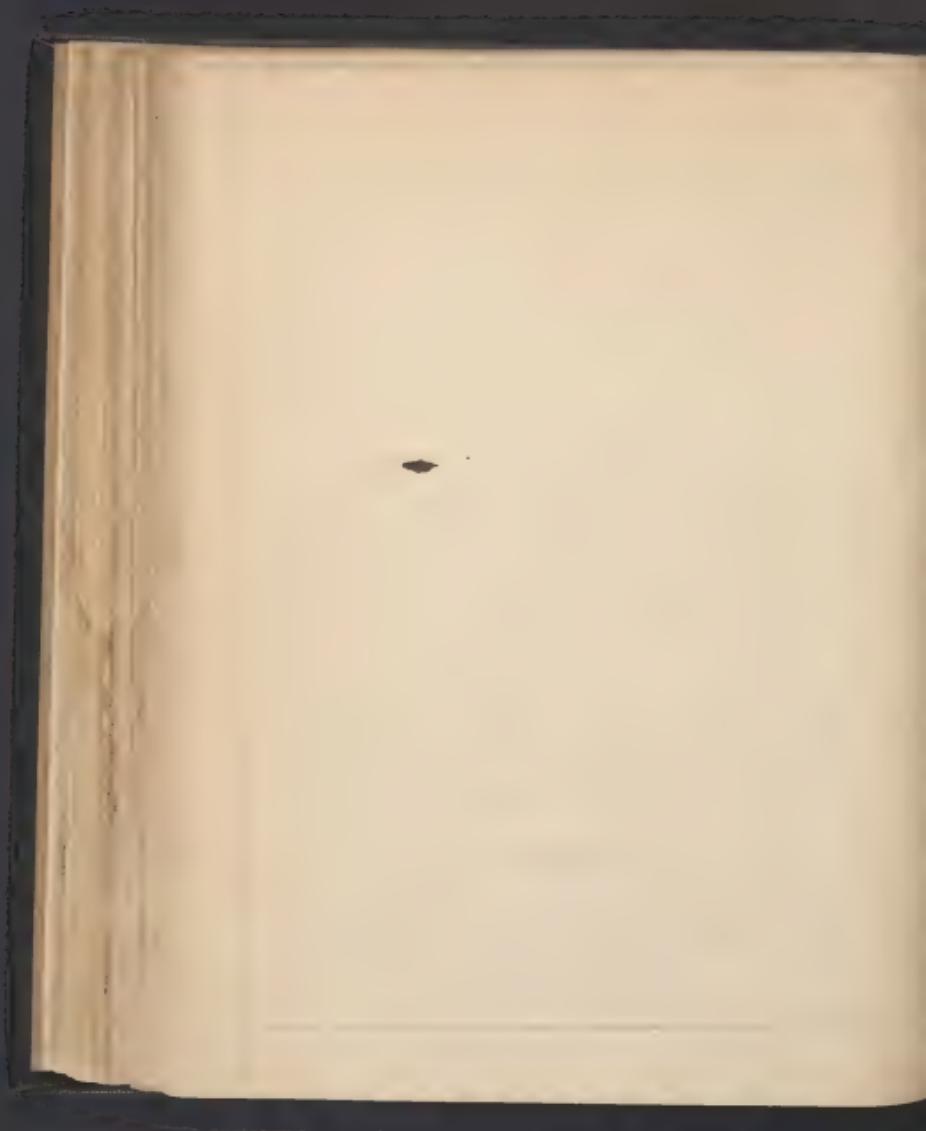


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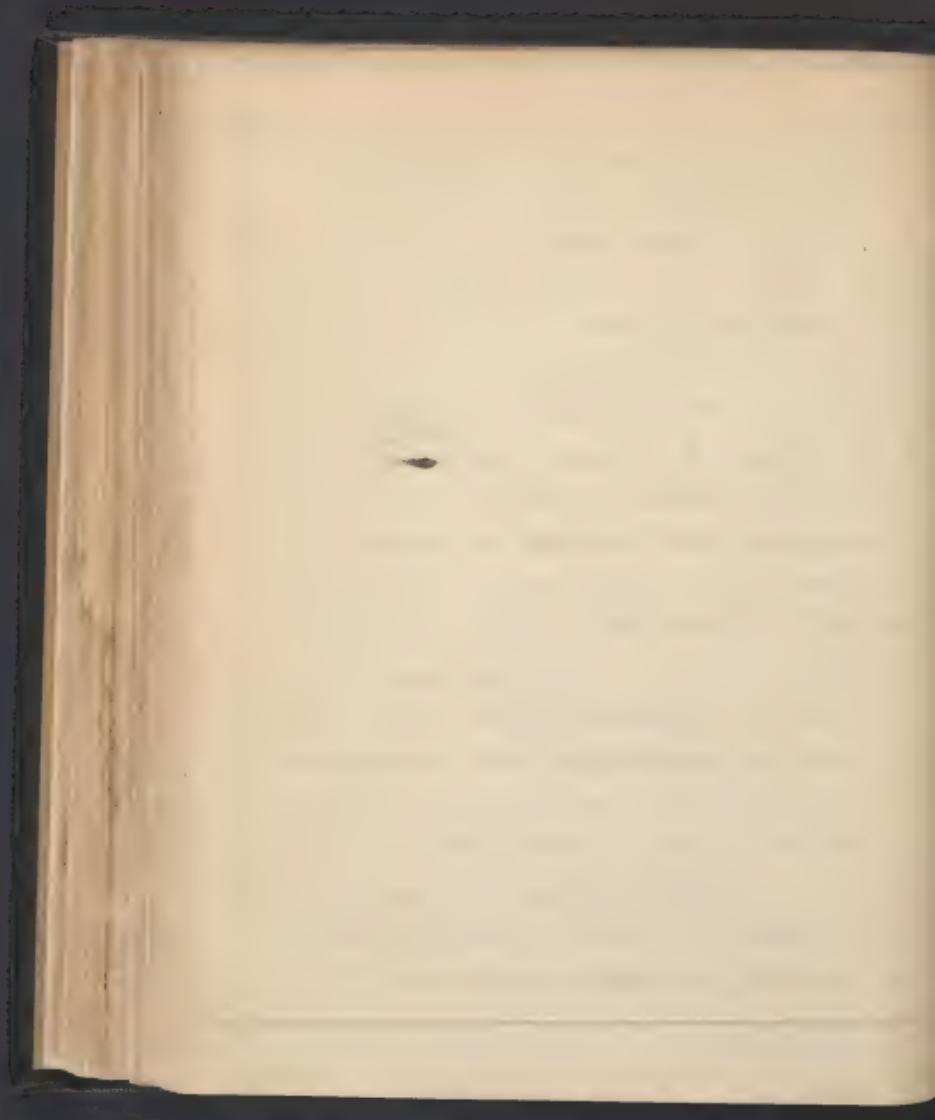
for more than one or two weeks, and likewise  
by a considerable remission of the pain, while  
a sense of weight and an anxiety still continue,  
when an abscess has formed, the frequency  
of the pulse is at first abated, but in a  
short time after it is again increased, with  
frequent cold shiverings, and marked exacerbations  
in the afternoon and evening, succeeded by night  
sweatings, and other symptoms of hectic fever:—  
These at length prove fatal, unless the abscess opens  
into the cavity of the stomach, the pus be evacuated, X  
by vomiting, and the ulcer soon heal;—Lastly, the  
tendency to gangrene may be suspected from the  
violence of the symptoms not yielding to the  
remedies employed during the first days of the  
disease; and that a gangrene has already begun,  
may be known from the sudden remission of  
the pain, while the frequency of the pulse  
continues, and at the same time becomes,  
weaker, attended with other symptoms of



increasing debility in the whole system: —  
The symptoms of Gastritis, are acute pain in  
the stomach, sourness, irritability, and frequent  
vomiting; the pulse is commonly small and  
hard, not quick in the commencement of the  
disease, and there is a greater loss of strength  
in all the functions of the body than in  
almost any other inflammation, ~~and~~ in the  
advanced stage of this disease, there is tension  
of the epigastric and umbilical regions, enormous  
prostration of strength, the pulse is small, hard,  
tender, and contracted; The disease is very rapid  
in its course, and it not unfeared an aggregation  
of all these symptoms takes place, and particularly  
of the debility; the patient has now so little strength  
that he cannot be raised without fainting, his  
eyes are wild, his countenance wan, his pulse  
feeble, a hiccup, and a discharge of dark  
matter takes place, similar to the black vomit;  
There is now a considerable distension of the abdomen



of cold. This are often the precursors of  
gastritis, or symptoms of its disease; -  
In addition to these regular symptoms, there are  
many others which are anomalous, these are  
called delusive symptoms; thus sometimes pain  
takes place in the part too resembling that  
of Colic, when inflammation occurs, even  
in the bowels; Dr. H. Bigelow has <sup>long time</sup> ~~recently~~ known  
this in the patients whom he attended the  
inflammation of the Stomach w<sup>th</sup> yellow fever,  
and believes the highest degree of pain always  
denotes a fatal termination. This may be  
the take from it a rigid, anxious Stomach,  
a spasmodic contraction of the muscles of the  
arm, also a desire for salts, and intolerance  
of light; - In the treatment of Inflammation  
we have to deal with an active inflammation  
existing in a muscle organ, and repair in its  
course; Our duty is then to meet it with the  
most powerful and efficient means; I will



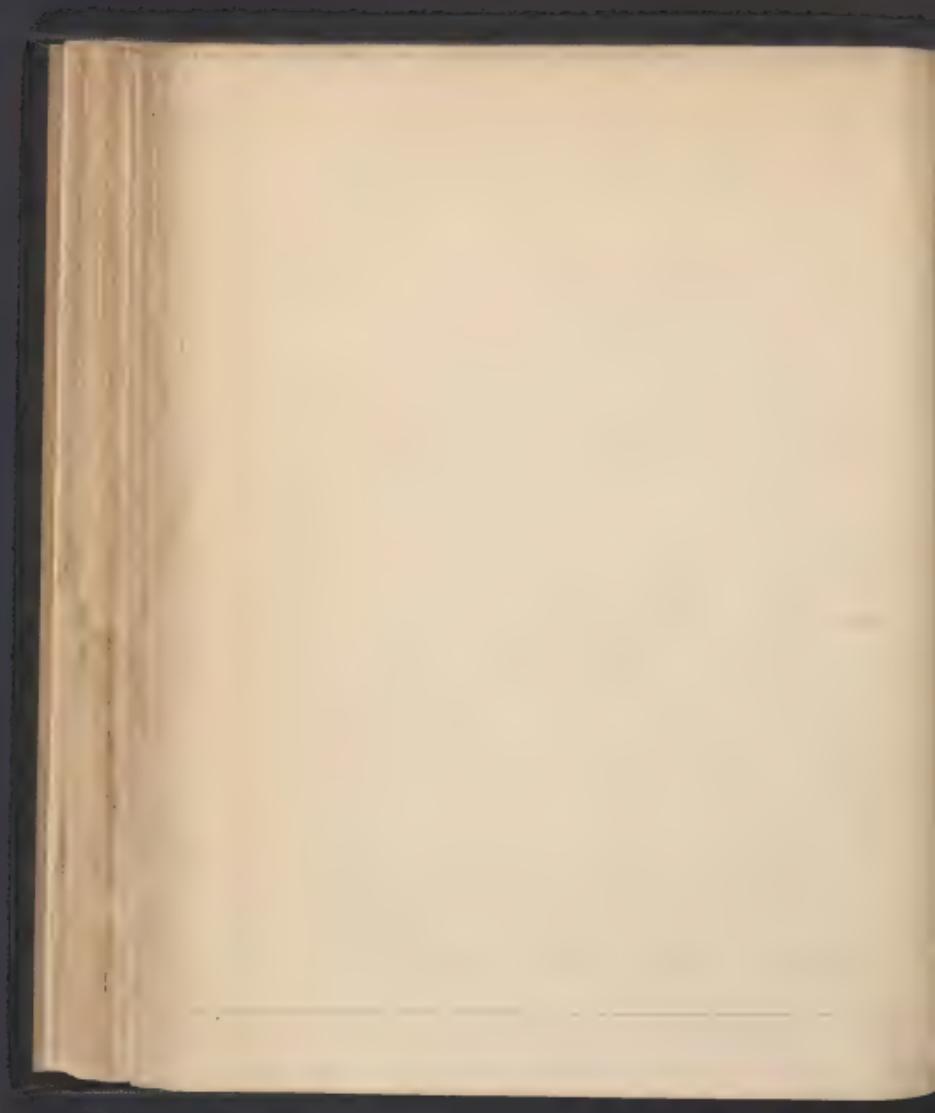
inflammation, consequently the best remedy is venesection, regardless of the pulse and of the prostration of strength, we should boldly apply the lancet and freely and copiously depur;

In the early stage of this disease, we should take from the arm ℥. XX. or XXX of blood, at one bleeding, but should this not answer, we must repeat the operation to the same extent;

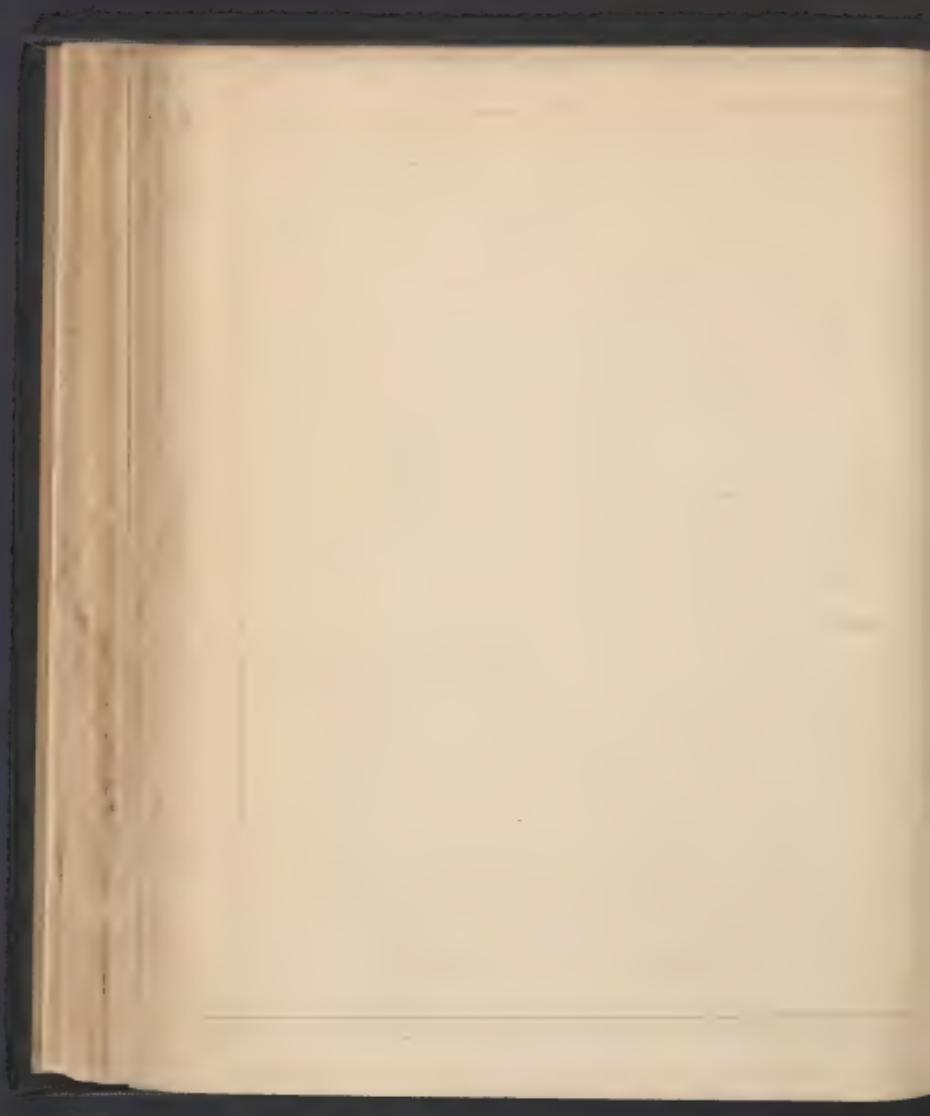
Dr. Chapman relates a case in which ℥. 200 of blood were taken in a short time; — Many practitioners bleed partially and repeatedly in this disease, the practice however is a most pernicious one; — The pulse and fever are no guides for us here. — It is one of the peculiarities of Typhus, that the strength of the now body, especially that of the circulation is much impaired that there is weaker every day, — But as we detract from the mass of blood, the powers of the system are augmented, and we thus have to treat an open case of inflammatory



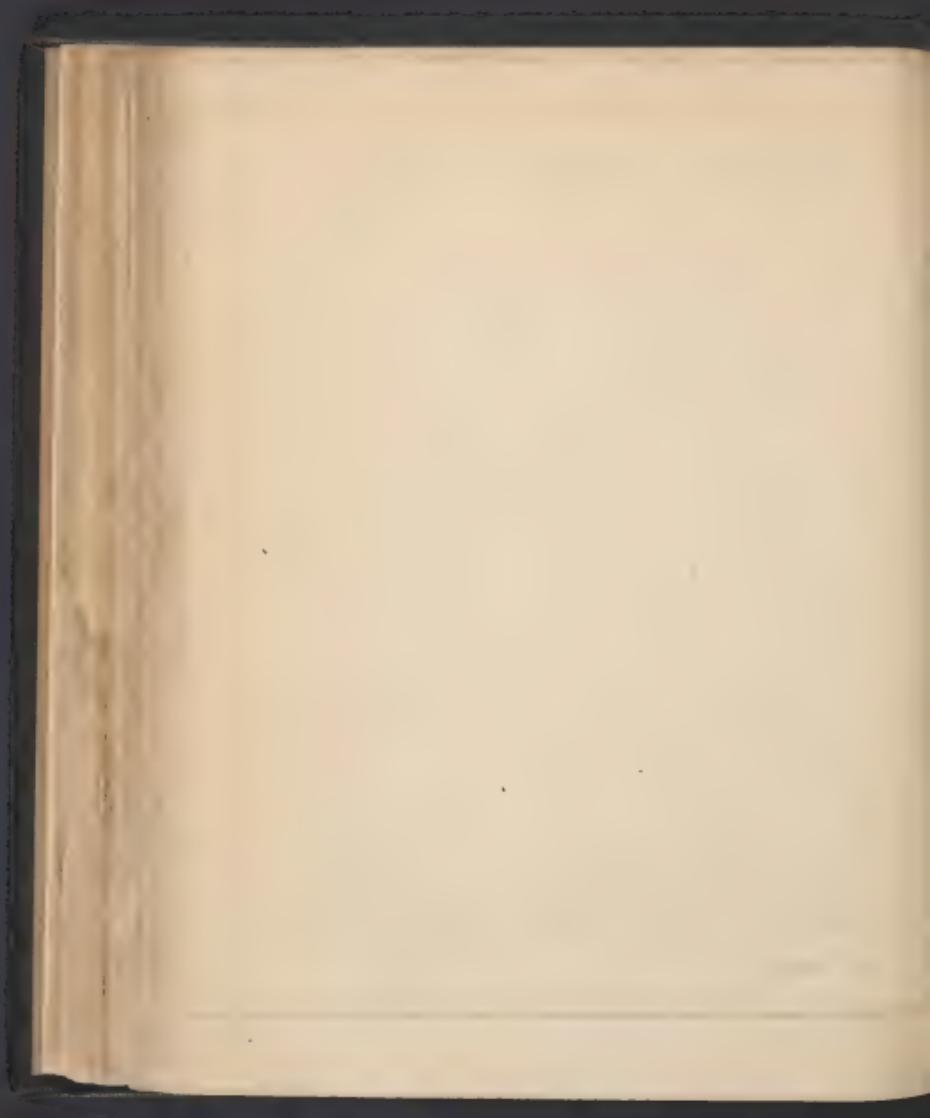
In this severe a debilitated state of the system it is dependent upon too much stimulancy, it has been illustrated by Syme, and much more by the Hippocrates of America, the late H. Benjamin Bush. Blisters are next in importance to the lancet, as the humor is primarily seated in the stomach, they should be applied to the region of that organ;—considering the severity of the case the blister should be large enough to cover the whole of the stomach;—this is the only way by which we can derive their greatest advantage; when they are small, we obtain from them but little advantage, but when large they do us no injury and become very efficacious;—cooperating to the same end fomentations may be applied to the abdomen, such as large bladders of hot water or towels immersed in hot water or opercular liquor and wrung out.—In consequence of the great irritability of the



stomach in Gastritis, we are precluded from  
the use of internal remedies per os, which are  
inevitably rejected; - It however becomes necessary  
to open the bowels, and this should be  
accomplished by emollient injections, and as  
their action is mechanical, they must be very  
mild, and therefore should be large, as half  
a pint of warm water with sweet oil and  
molasses, and as the object is not only evacuation  
but also fermentation, they must be frequently  
repeated, pro re nata; - As soon as the  
stomach is able to bear any thing, oil or  
calomel must be given as laxatives; Calomel  
is to be preferred to the oil; one of the  
peculiarities of calomel is that it may be  
administered in cases of inflamed bowels  
without any apprehension of its aggravating the  
disease; indeed it seems calculated to reduce  
the inflammation; - Given in doses, it will  
be retained by the stomach without giving



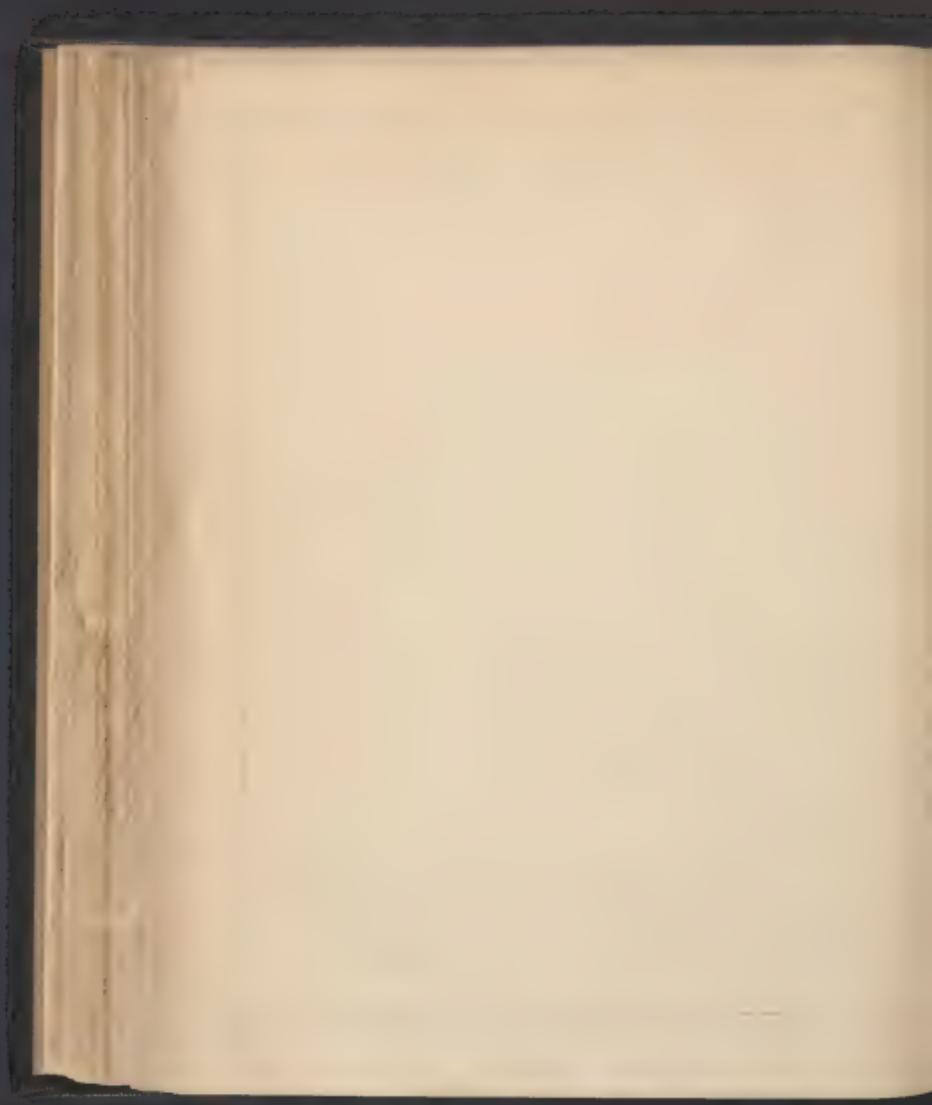
any offence in a majority of cases; -  
The sulphate of magnesia is also well suited  
to these cases; this of all the salines proves  
the least irritating; - It may be frequently  
exhibited and will be retained when every  
other article is rejected; - We should carefully  
endeavour to calm the stomach from the  
commencement of the disease; - The best remedy  
for this purpose is lime water and milk; -  
But cases sometimes occur in which decided  
advantage is derived from anodyne injections;  
these sooth pain, abate irritability of the  
stomach, and produce general composure; at  
this time the warm bath will be found to  
display effects very astonishing; poultices are  
of much importance; - It is the practice  
of some physicians to administer large draughts  
of饮水, they are however pernicious; they  
overload the stomach by their quantity and keep  
up a continual vomiting; - The thirst or



this disease of which the patient so much complains is more effectually allayed by a moderate quantity of new milk than by copious drinks; mint tea, and toast and water are also of much benefit in abating the thirst. — The warm bath has been highly extolled in the treatment of Gastritis; It is of advantage, but it should not be used until after we have employed the depleting measures; then it will be found of much advantage, not only by inducing perspiration and giving the disease a centrifugal character, but also by comforting the patient and allaying irritation; But after all, resection and blisters are the sovereign remedies in this disease; — They should be largely and repeatedly employed; Resection must be practised in the very early stages of the disease, and we should be intrepid in the use of the lancet; If however exercised in a moderate degree, we will



to no good, without regard to all the  
counter indications, we should bleed until we  
find relief; - Having done this Plethora should  
be employed, and in a majority of cases we  
shall have the happiness to eradicate the  
disease; - After the other means have proven  
ineffectual, opium should be used to prevent  
giddiness, and when this cannot be given  
we should employ the spirits of turpentine; -  
in addition to the doses before mentioned,  
wholesome vapors from incense laterally enter  
the stomach; - The actions of these on the stomach  
produce numerous and diversified effects; the  
lum poison, as aught else relative, as regards the  
dose taken and the individual who takes it;  
that is to say, that a dose of mercury  
might prove hurtful under opposite circumstances.  
Poisons have been variously employed, but we  
shall speak of them under the two divisions of  
Vaccinie, and Corrosive poisons, by the first-



cl 1, Opium is most frequently taken to a dangerous extent, either from accident or with an intention to commit suicide; Under such circumstances the first indication would be to excite vomiting as quickly as possible, and for this purpose, the most active means should be employed. — The best Emetic in this case will be a combination of Tartar Emetic and Ipecacuanha; The sulphate of Copper is considered as eminently suited to cases of poisons. Although emetics are very prompt in their operation in most cases, yet when poisons have been taken into the stomach, there exists so much torpor of that organ, that they must be given in much larger doses than ordinary; It is proper to give from grs. VI. to VIII. of Tartar Emetic in combination with grs. XX. or XXX. of Ipecacuanha. — Should this fail to excite vomiting the dose should be repeated. It sometimes happens that there is such loss of susceptibility in



the stomach that no medicine will excite vomiting, in this case the distention of the stomach with warm water has sometimes produced the effect. — but a quart or two will be requisite, —

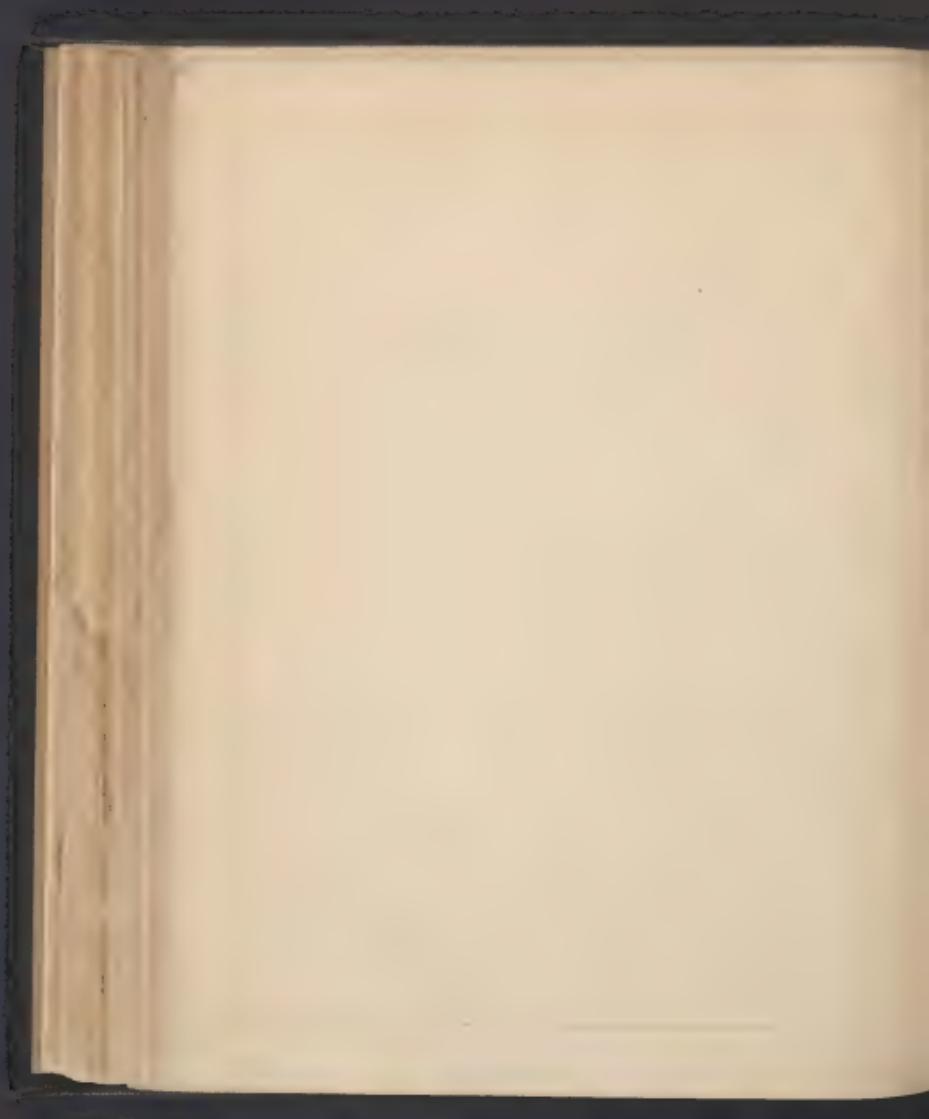
Cataplasms of Tobacco applied to the epigastric region are amongst the best and most efficacious means of exciting vomiting; they here frequently produce that effect when every thing else had failed. All that is necessary is to take a bundle of the leaves and immerse them in vinegar, and apply them; 1g. l. of Tartar Crystall will often in those cases of torpor of the stomach produce vomiting when given in the form of enema, sometimes this effect may be obtained, by occasionally thrusting a sucker into the fauces, and it is a notorious fact, that insensibility of the fauces remains after it has been completely destroyed in the stomach by narcotic poisons. — But should all the means above mentioned prove ineffectual, we must then resort to the use of an instrument



which Dr. Physick strenuously recommends in  
these cases; It is simply a catheter through  
which large quantities of fluids are conveyed  
into the stomach and again drawn out, and  
in this way the organ is literally washed out:-  
There are sometimes cases occurring, when  
notwithstanding the complete evacuation of the  
stomach of all its contents, the impulsion of  
the poison remains; - It is necessary that we  
should here combat the deleterious effects of  
the poison upon the system; - Our first duty  
then, is to stop stupor and sterorous breathing;  
to counteract this tendency it has been recommended  
to keep the patient in continual motion; and  
if nothing else will answer to shake him  
violently and repeatedly. - Much more good  
may be expected from inducing a counter  
impulsion by synapisms applied to the  
extremities, or by stimulating injections.  
In this way Dr. Chapman has ~~sometimes~~ known



the disposition to sleep completely overcome,—  
It has been recommended to produce the  
counter irritation by whipping the patient,  
this was deduced from an experiment-made  
on a dog by Baerhaave.— Notwithstanding the  
effects of opium are of a most baneful nature  
yet in this experiment, though the largest dose was  
given to the animal, it forced himself and  
burst from the counter irritation produced by  
whipping; — These can be cogitate means may  
at times be salutary at least; the volatile salts  
have been largely spoken of in these cases; —  
Chapman has often known a tincture of  
the volatile salts or aqua ammonia to overcome  
the tendency to sleep; — But after the employment  
of all these means, it sometimes happens that we  
cannot resist the occurrence of fever and  
inflammation to the brain. The treatment here  
is not peculiar, it is to be conducted upon the  
general principles which are applicable to these.



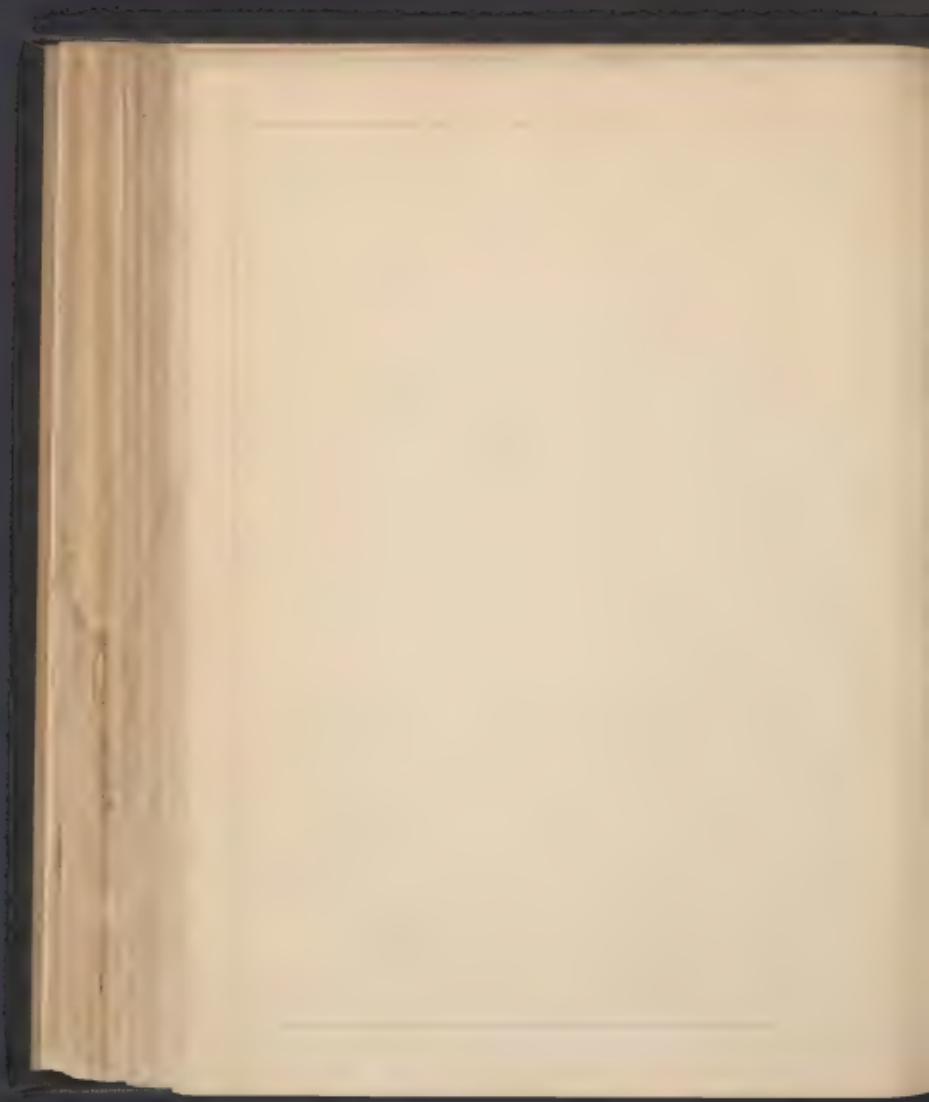
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affections arising from other causes. It should however be recollectec by us, that these effects when produced by the action of Narcotics, will not admit of resection to any great extent, and must be treated with cordial remedies after it. Strong coffee is a good corrective of the narcotic effects of opium. - So the general treatment of affection resulting from all poisons there is one exception, that is, when they proceed from Digitalis, and its hundred' articles such as Solaceo, Laurel, and Belladonna, it is found that the diffusible stimulants, even opium itself, are the most serviceable remedies. - Volatile Alkali, and the Spigilia & Marylandia, have been lightly spoken of.

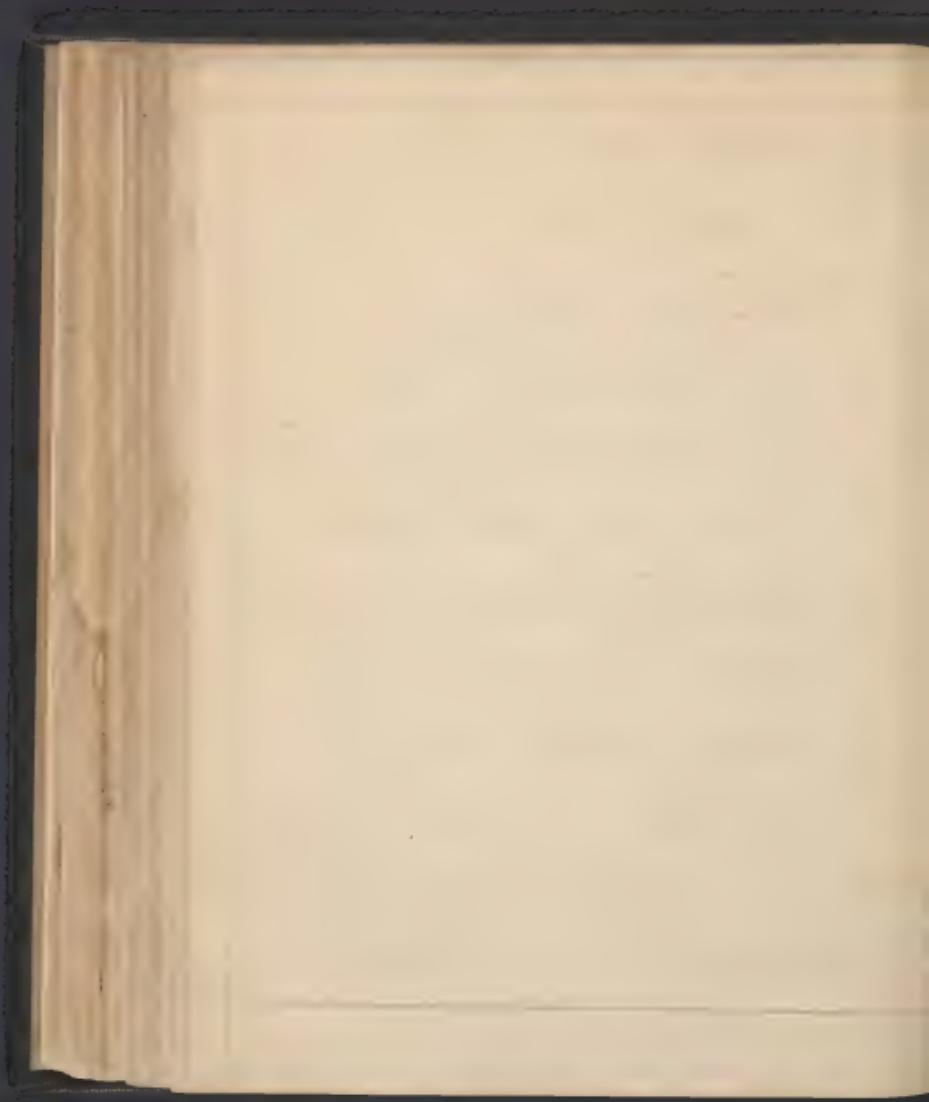
The treatment of corrosive poisons, is nearly similar to that of Narcotic poisons; Omethio and the other articles before mentioned for combating Narcotics, are usually the same to be used in these cases, but there is this difference respecting



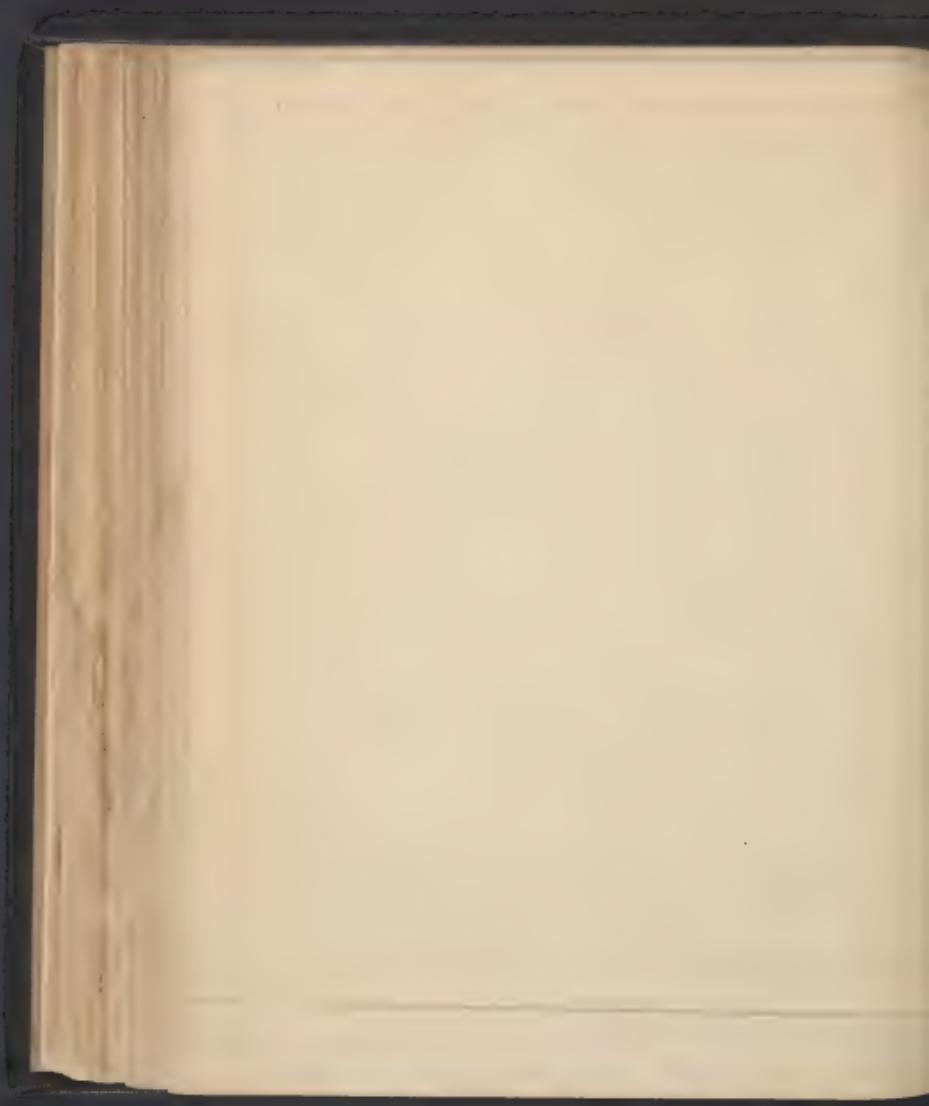
the mineral poisons; that is, that we have  
some reason to confide in antidotes, or such  
substances as have the effect of neutralizing  
those poisons. There has been a great deal written  
on this subject by some of the ablest men in  
Europe. They pursued their investigations with  
industry and every probability of certainty, having  
warranted them of the truth in the following  
results. Viz. That albumen is an antidote to  
corrosive sublimate, it decomposes it, and converts  
it into an inert and harmless substance.—  
We should therefore in cases of corrosive  
sublimate being taken into the stomach, after  
puking our patient, administer the whole of  
an egg; this is a convenient corrective.—  
But to obtain the efficacy of the albumen  
of eggs, to the greatest advantage, we should  
give them in large quantities, ten or fifteen  
are not too many.— 2<sup>nd</sup> Saccharum  
substances, as syrups are antidotes to verdigris



or the acetate of copper, to be thoroughly  
effectual in correcting the properties of this  
substance, saccharine matter must be given in  
large quantities, and it possesses this happy  
effect; that as soon as taken it terminates  
the acute sufferings of the patient, and then  
by its purgative power it sweeps out the poison  
that has been taken into the stomach; - 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
alk is an antidote to the muriate of silver,  
by a chemical action which takes place  
the corrosive powers of the muriate are destroyed;  
but it will be best to exhibit the milk with  
large quantities of the muriate of soda; In  
solution the muriate of soda will also act  
as an antidote to silver; This should be  
recalled by us, as nitrate of silver is  
occasionally employed in practice and bad  
effects will sometimes result from it; 4<sup>th</sup>. The  
sulphates of soda and magnesia are antidotes to  
the preparations of Led and Barytes, especially

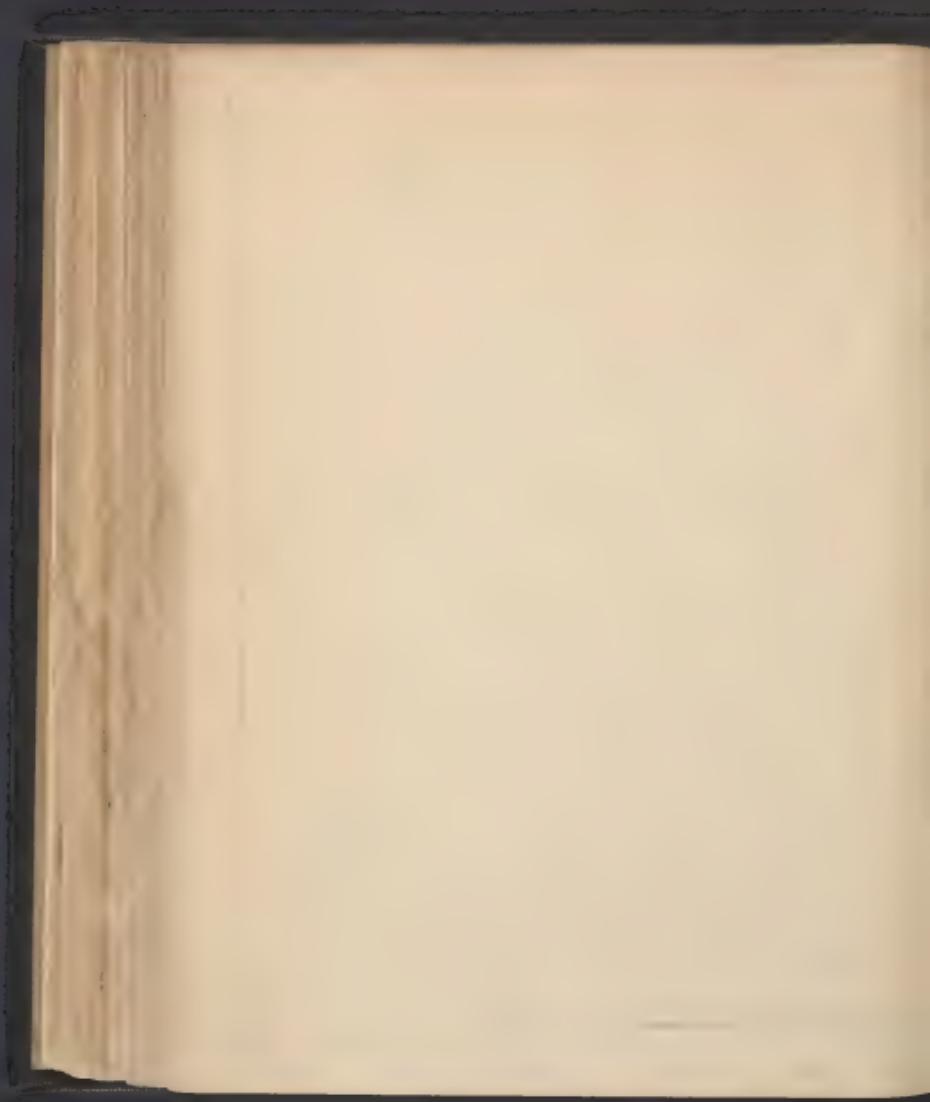


to the acetate of Soda; 5<sup>th</sup> Strong decoctions  
of bark, commonow Years, a decoction of Quicks, and  
all powerfull astringents are antidotes to Tartar  
metie and the other antimonial preparations;  
6<sup>th</sup> Calcined magnesia is an antidote to  
the mineral acids, but should be administered  
early and in large doses to be efficacious;  
7<sup>th</sup> Acetic acid or very strong vinegar is an antidote  
to the Alkalies; - As yet we have no antidote to  
arsenic upon which we can fully rely; It was  
believed by Bertran a French physician and  
surgeon, that carbon prospised that valuable  
property, he even went so far as to say that  
he never experienced it on himself with a view  
to ascertain this fact, he states that in the  
morning he swallowed a large dose of arsenic  
and as soon as he began to feel its effects  
he swallowed a tumbler of charcoal and  
water, which entirely suspended them; he  
further states that he made experiments on



rules of a similar nature and with similar  
results; - This portion however, has lately been shown  
to be erroneous; - The antidotes, which have been  
enumerated come to us under the highest authority,  
we should however receive them with doubt; -  
They should not be resorted to before we have tried  
emetics and the other remedies above mentioned.  
It will be time enough to administer them  
after evacuations have been made from the  
stomach, then they may be given to correct the  
detrimental tendency of any of the poison that  
may remain, - But for arsenic, it must be  
admitted that we have no remedy, except vomiting  
and an antidote is still a desideratum.

By vomiting however the whole will not be  
expelled, and a very small quantity may  
prove fatal. - All that we can do after  
giving emetics is to administer copiously the  
demulcent drinks, such as gum arabic and  
water, flax seed tea and other demulcent dressings,



2

Oils must be studiously avoided, for they give activity to the poison; notwithstanding however all our efforts the most alarming effects will result from the introduction of this poison into the stomach; From the inflammation of the stomach fever will occur similar to the yellow fever; we must in this case bleed copiously and apply blisters to the region of the stomach, and exercise all our means for calming the irritability of the stomach; But in cases of the spleen becoming completely under the influence of arsenic this treatment will not always answer. The patient sinks and becomes completely prostrated with vomiting, low delirium, and other marks of increasing debility. If the poison remain the case is forlorn, we should here use the spirits of Turpentine, both by the stomach and rectum; —

I have now detailed the causes, symptoms, and treatment of Gastritis, arising both from

... unde sicuti quoniam illa haec sit  
cum cunctis partibus illa de quatuor ha-  
cens sicut etiam illa dicitur non illa respon-  
sione sed de cunctis illis quatuor ha-  
cens sicut etiam illa dicitur non illa respon-  
sione sed de cunctis illis quatuor ha-  
cens sicut etiam illa dicitur non illa respon-  
sione sed de cunctis illis quatuor ha-  
cens sicut etiam illa dicitur non illa respon-  
sione sed de cunctis illis quatuor ha-  
cens sicut etiam illa dicitur non illa respon-  
sione sed de cunctis illis quatuor ha-

the ordinary causes, and from poisons being  
received into the stomach, and now take leave  
of the subject, trusting enough has been said,  
to direct us in the successful treatment of  
the disease. —

Benjamin H. Moyer.

